

B<sub>7</sub>f»-8i

\* to be more ships In one port than now are in the whole kingdom/ The sea-going population who lived along the Cornish creeks eoraplainfwl in Parliament that, as their able-bodied men had been carried off to nerva in the navy, resis-tance could no longer be made fco tho raidn of a cruel and destructive tmomy. They requestwl that, in return for the men taken by the government, & foiva nhold l>e sent down to protect Corn wall,<sup>1</sup>

This call on the contra! authwitieK co dtrftmd the coast was unusual and ominous. In ordinary timoft local resources had proved quite suilicient to repol tho incursions of the enemy. Whenever the Pronch f!<»<»t wan nc^ n from the cliffs, beaeon-fires, lighted on tha neighbouring hill-topH, soon called together a sufficicat compiiny of peasantry and gentlemen to prevent the fox^oigner doing any Borioun miwhlof by a landing. The only protection for the Thauwn iim»If was a stringent order to the inhabitants of Kent, and KSH<»X, wht'n they saw the beacons lighted, to run down with \* their b<u\*t array of arms to the said river to nave both tho townn and the navy in the ports/ <sup>a</sup> The mont highly organiBetl forces uscul for coast defence wore tho military retainers of great lorda or churchmen whose ©states lay near the sea. Tha Abbot of Battle more than once headed tha roBintanca of the men of Sussex to foreign invasion ; and the Commons petitioned that, for the safety of tho jmople In those partft, the lords nhold be compelled to dwell on their t'Biatcn\* by lh<\$ m&»<sup>s</sup> In this way almost the whole bunion of eoutit <I«fonco wIIB thrown on those unfortunate districts which stiilered from the raids of the enemy, just as the bunion of naval warfare \va» thrown on the merchant service. It is not surprining that the maritime towns and ports, bearing the whole brunt and expeimo of the war by sea and land, failed to endure the strain in bad times\* In the early years of Bichard the Becond, not only the Channol, but many of the ports along the south coast, fell into the hands of the French and Spaniards. The Commons, in great alarm, petitioned the government to take extraordinary measures for the defence of the sea-board by central authority\* voted taxes

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. ParL*, ii. 807, 811, §20, and ui &» 48t. 4\$, »6f  
I»8, X46» 162; *Feed.*, iv. 16; *Wals.*, i. S70; *Mtm.* KVA, 6.  
i iv. a-4t 17. " *Wals.*, i. S41,439; *Hot\**. Jfm» jp. » ; &Qt\*